

REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN DIEGO REGION
EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUMMARY REPORT
SEPTEMBER 9, 2020
ITEM 11

SUBJECT

Update on Implementation of the Practical Vision (*David Gibson*)

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Adoption of Tentative Resolution No. R9-2020-0215 (Supporting Document No. 1).

KEY ISSUES

- Identifies significant accomplishments from January 2019 – June 2020 (Supporting Document No. 2);
- Identifies Priority Projects that will help achieve the goals of the Practical Vision (Attachment 1 to Supporting Document No. 1); and
- Provides an opportunity for the Board to formally endorse the allocation of staff resources to address the Priority Projects (Supporting Document No. 1).

PRACTICAL VISION

This item provides a progress report on the sixth year of implementing the Practical Vision. This item also demonstrates the San Diego Water Board values of communication and transparency by reporting in an open meeting our major accomplishments since the last update, our regional priorities and goals for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 (FY 20-21), and the budget that supports our work. Through the Practical Vision, the Board and its staff exercise its leadership and stewardship values both locally and statewide.

DISCUSSION

This item is an opportunity to provide Board Members and the public with a more comprehensive report on the San Diego Water Board's accomplishments and to give Board members an opportunity to provide early input and direction on regional priorities and goals for FY 20-21.

December 2019 saw the end of our sixth full calendar year of implementing the San Diego Water Board's Practical Vision. The Practical Vision is a tool for culture change at the San Diego Water Board; the means to achieve healthy waters through a collaborative, outcome-based approach that relies on the latest science, prioritization of issues and actions, and prudent use of authorities in service to the people of California.

Annually, the nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards report their principal accomplishments to the State Water Board. The State Water Board Accomplishments Report for 2019 is still under development. The 2018 Report can be found at: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/publications_forms/publications/general/docs/2018accomplishmentsreport_accessible.pdf. Our regional accomplishments are provided in Supporting Document 2.

In the interest of transparency and context, Tentative Resolution No. R9-2020-0215

includes information regarding the San Diego Water Board's budget allocated by the State Board (Supporting Document No 1) and the list of San Diego Water Board Projects for FY 20-21 (Attachment 1 to Supporting Document 1) includes the staff personnel years assigned to the FY 20-21 Operational Plan projects

Fifty-three projects were included in the 2019 Operations Plan. The Practical Vision projects from 2019 that I will highlight in my verbal briefing are:

- Tijuana River Border Pollution Control Efforts: Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) Development, United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) Project Funding Secured and Investigative Order Issued
- Santa Margarita River Estuary Investigative Order for Implementation of Alternative TMDL Strategy for Reducing Eutrophication
- Investigative Order Issued to Multiple Entities to Identify and Quantify the Sources and Transport Pathways of Human Fecal Material to the Lower San Diego River Watershed
- NPDES Permit for the North City Pure Water Project

The FY 20-21 Practical Vision Operations Plan (FY 20-21 Operational Plan) carries forward our unfinished projects, adds new projects, identifies staffing, resources, tasks, and milestones for each project, and tracks our progress throughout the year. We include many of our Core Regulatory work projects (permit renewals, inspections, etc.) with the Practical Vision projects to improve management of the priority casework while also achieving the Practical Vision goals.

During 2019-2020, we realigned our operational planning process with the State fiscal year instead of the calendar year. This change will allow program managers to consider our annual Practical Vision goals and priorities when preparing each program's annual performance measure goals. This year the roll out of the annual operations plan was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In future years, this operational planning item will be presented to the San Diego Water Board for approval in August.

The San Diego Water Board annual performance measure goals and accomplishments are used in the California Water Boards' Annual Performance Report. The Performance Report for FY18-19 can be found at:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/about_us/performance_report_1819/index.html

The FY 20-21 Operational Plan takes these Performance Measures into account by including priority programmatic work that is linked to the goals of the Practical Vision. This effort requires an extra degree of prioritizing, planning, and budgeting on the part of your managers during the preparation of the Operational Plan. The FY 20-21 Operational Plan includes 45 projects overall.

Projects included in the FY 20-21 Operational Plan were selected considering the Key Beneficial Uses and Areas established in San Diego Water Board Resolution No. R9-2017-0030 (*A Resolution Supporting Use of the Key Beneficial Uses/Key Areas Concept*)

to Help the San Diego Water Board Focus on What is Most Important) and guidance from the Priority Setting Team that was established as proposed in Project 2 of Practical Vision Chapter 1, Strategizing for Healthy Waters. The Priority Setting Team, comprised of the Executive Officer, Assistant Executive Officer, three Branch Chiefs, and two senior staff, worked with all Board staff to develop a "road map" of outcomes and related strategies that, if achieved, will set priorities that enable the San Diego Water Board to achieve the goals of the Practical Vision (Supporting Document No. 1, Attachment 2 – San Diego Water Board Priority Key Uses, Outcomes, and Strategies). Some of the key projects and priorities I will discuss in this item are:

- San Diego Water Board Consideration of Biological Water Quality Objectives
- San Diego Bay Efforts
 - San Diego Bay Fish Tissue Study
 - Internal San Diego Bay Workgroup
 - Maintain DIVOT Sediment Data to Track Pollutant Reductions
 - Sediment Quality Objectives Implementation Liaison
 - San Diego Bay Sediment Cleanup Assessment Project
- Increasing Local Drinking Water Supply
 - Review of Salt and Nutrient Management Plans
 - Revision and Issuance of Master Recycling Permits
- NPDES Permit Reissuance for the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant (SBIWTP)
- Preparation of the Regional Storm Water Permit for FY 21-22 Consideration
- Next Generation Monitoring

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Meeting Notice and Agenda for today's meeting was posted on the Board's website and sent to those who subscribed to the email list for Board Meetings

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

1. Tentative Resolution R9-2020-0215, with Attachment 1 - San Diego Water Board Projects for FY 20-21, and Attachment 2 - San Diego Water Board Priority Key Uses, Outcomes, and Strategies.
2. Practical Vision and Program Accomplishments for 2019-2020.